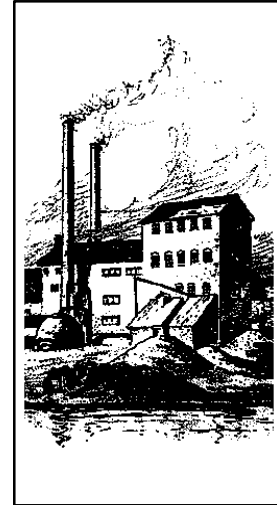


ARCHIBALD KENRICK & SONS LTD.

Roy Gault

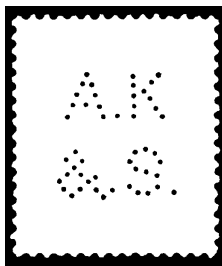
While checking the spelling of the surname ‘**Kenrick**’ on the web, the following information came to light.

In 1791 **Archibald Kenrick** (1760-1835) built an iron foundry to the east of Spon Lane Bridge, West Bromwich. The site was being developed by John Houghton, clerk to the Birmingham Canal Company, and included a canal wharf, essential for the conveyance of raw materials and finished goods. Over the next 40 years more foundries were built in the area, including the ‘Summit Foundry’ of Samuel Kenrick, which opened in 1830.



Archibald Kenrick was originally a Buckle Maker in Wrexham, before setting up his iron foundry in West Bromwich. However it was his sons **Archibald Kenrick** (1798-1878), and **Timothy Kenrick** (1807-1885) who were in charge when perfins were first used, although by then the company was known as Archibald Kenrick & Sons.

1874-1880

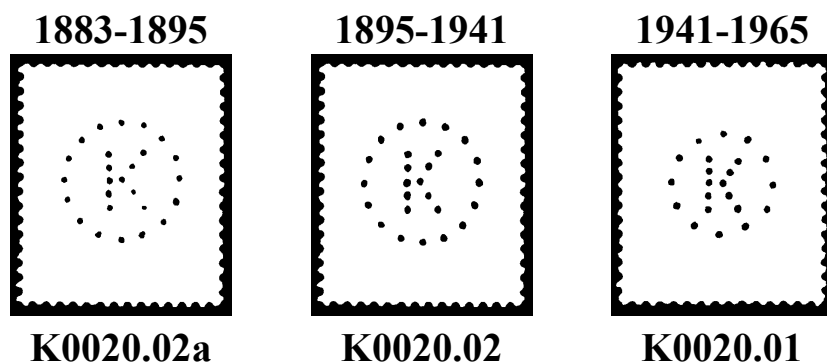


A3440.01

This first die, “A.K/&S.” (A3440.01), is admittedly only a suspected identity, but it is based on the evidence of duplex ‘868’ postmarks for West Bromwich.

The next die, a ‘K in circle’ (K0020.02a), is also only suspected, but precedes two other dies with the ‘K in circle’ motif, both of which are known used by Archibald Kenrick & Sons Ltd. It is also found with ‘868’ West Bromwich postmarks, so looks a pretty safe bet. This particular die was in use until c1895* when it was replaced by a similar die (K0020.02) with a narrower “K”. This would be the single headed die recorded in the Sloper m/s ledger, and believed destroyed when Sloper’s premises were bombed in May 1941.

J Sloper & Co replaced the destroyed die with another single headed die, easily recognisable as it only has 12 pins forming the circle. It was in use until c1965.



* K0020.02a is also known used on a 1½d issue 'O'.

If anyone can add anything further regarding dates/issues that modify any of the quoted details, please let me know.

I fully expected to find the trade mark was a 'K in a circle' to reflect their preferred perfin, but the closest I came was this brass plate from a cast iron coffee pot.



At least there is a ring of dots!

Five generations of Kenricks have been involved in running the company which still occupies the same site today, trading under the name of Kenrick Hardware Ltd.



Indeed, the Kenrick family tree makes fascinating reading and shows powerful connections with Debenhams, Nettlefolds & Chamberlain, the Midland Railway, Midland Bank, Lloyds Bank, Allied Dunbar, Kynochs, Hercules Cycles - a family tree of perfins. It also includes Lord Mayors, a Nobel Peace Prize winner, and a Prime Minister.

For more information visit:

www.kenricks.co.uk, and
www.greywall.demon.co.uk/genealogy/WynnHall